

Message Text

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: DUTCH OPENING STATEMENT

BEGIN SUMMARY: AD HOC GROUP APPROVED TEXT OF DUTCH OPENING
STATEMENT ON OCTOBER 26. TEXT INCLUDING MINOR AMENDMENTS MADE
BY GROUP FOLLOWS. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN TEST:

NETHERLANDS OPENING STATEMENT

TO APPRAISE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS IS GENERALLY RATHER DIFFICULT FOR WANT OF A PROPER
PERSPECTIVE IN TIME. TODAY, HOWEVER, THERE CAN BE NO MISTAKING
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THE HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON WHICH WE ARE NOW
EMBARKING. THE VERY FACT THAT IT HAS BECOME POSSIBLE FOR US TO
MEET HERE IN VIENNA IS EVIDENCE OF THE MARKED CHANGE IN THE POLI-
TICAL CLIMATE OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS; ACTUALLY FOR THE FIRST TIME

IN HISTORY STATES WITH ARMED FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE ARE GOING TO MAKE A DETERMINED EFFORT TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF THEIR FORCES WITH THE AIM OF STRENGTHENING THE BASIS ON WHICH TO ESTABLISH NEW, MORE STABLE AND SECURE RELATIONS BETWEEN EACH OTHER. MY GOVERNMENT WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR SATISFACTION THAT WE HAVE ARRIVED AT THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS AND FEEL THAT WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY IN THE PURSUIT OF GREATER DETENTE BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEMS IN EUROPE.

INDEED WE FEEL THAT THE PRESENT CONDITIONS WARRANT NEGOTIATIONS ON CONCRETE MEASURES TO LOWER THE LEVEL OF MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE. IN THE FIRST PLACE THE ACCUMULATION OF MANPOWER AND ARMAMENTS IN THE WORLD AT LARGE, AND ESPECIALLY IN EUROPE, IS SUCH THAT IN GOOD REASON A LOWERING OF THIS LEVEL WOULD BY ITSELF ALREADY CONTRIBUTE TO A DECREASE OF TENSION. MOREOVER THE ASPIRATIONS OF OUR PEOPLES AND THOSE OF THE THIRD WORLD FOR A BETTER LIFE MAKE IT ESSENTIAL THAT WE SPARE NO EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE TO WORLDWIDE PEACEFUL RELATIONS THROUGH MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. IT CAN HARDLY BE DENIED THAT THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE A SPECIAL OBLIGATION TO STRIVE FOR MORE STABLE AND SECURE CONDITIONS IN THEIR PART OF THE WORLD, AS IN THIS CENTURY ALONE EUROPE HAS TWICE BEEN THE FOCAL POINT OF A GENERAL CONFLAGRATION.

FROM THESE GENERAL OBSERVATIONS IT WILL BE CLEAR, I TRUST, THAT MY GOVERNMENT REGARD AS THE AIM OF THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS NOT SO MUCH THE REDUCTION OF EXISTING FORCE LEVELS IN EUROPE BY THEMSELVES; RATHER THEY CONSIDER EVENTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS AND ASSOCIATED MEASURES, IN THE WIDER CONTEXT OF CONTINUING PROGRESS IN DETENTE, AS A MENS TO ARRIVE BOTH AT A MORE STABLE MILITARY BALANCE AND ALSO AT MORE SATISFACTORY POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS IN A EUROPE, WHERE BARRIERS BETWEEN PEOPLES, AS WELL AS THEIR FORCE LEVELS ARE LOWER, AND WHERE MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND THE CHANCES FOR COLLABORATION WILL BE HIGHER.

I AM SURE THAT THE VIEW IS WIDELY SHARED THAT THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY ARE INTERRELATED. FOR IT CANNOT
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BE MERE COINCIDENCE, THAT ALL THE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED HERE ARE ALSO TAKING PART IN THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE WHICH IS NOW IN ITS SECOND PHASE AT GENEVA. IN OUR VIEW THIS DEMONSTRATES THAT THE ONE AND SAME PLITICAL WILL TO ACHIEVE AN OVERALL IMPROVEMENT OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS STIMULATES OUR GOVERNMENTS TO ADDRESS IN THIS FORUM MORE SPECIFICALLY THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY AMONG THE STATES DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE EXISTING MILITARY CONFRONTATION, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME AT GENEVA THE RATHER MORE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF OVERALL RELATIONSHIPS IN EUROPE ARE BEING ADDRESSED.

AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND MY GOVERNMENT ENTER THESE NEGOTIATIONS

WITH A NUMBER OF IDEAS ON WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE. IT WILL BE OUR PRIMARY CONCERN THAT AT THE END OF THE ROAD WE WILL ARRIVE AT A SITUATION IN WHICH THE SECURITY FOR ANY OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED WILL BE UNDIMINISHED AT A LOWER LEVEL OF FORCES.

WITH THIS GENERAL GOAL CONSTANTLY IN MIND WE WILL STRIVE TO ACHIEVE IT BY VARIOUS MEASURES WHICH TAKEN TOGETHER WILL PRODUCE A BALANCED OUTCOME, IN WHICH ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE EXISTING DISPARITIES BETWEEN THE TWO ALLIANCES IN GEOGRAPHY, MANPOWER, EQUIPMENT AND DISPOSITION OF FORCES.

AS THE CONCENTRATION OF FORCES IS MOST CONSPICUOUS IN CENTRAL EUROPE, WE CONSIDER THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE RELATED TO FORCES LOCATED IN THIS AREA.

FOR PRACTICAL REASONS WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO LIMIT OUR ATTENTION TO GROUND FORCES, WITH THE FINAL OBJECTIVE OF ACHIEVING A COMMON CEILING ON MANPOWER IN THESE FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

THE PROBLEMS WE WILL BE FACED WITH ARE ALREADY VERY COMPLICATED AND WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO BURDEN THESE FIRST NEGOTIATIONS UNDULY BY TAKING ON MORE THAN WE CAN REASONABLY EXPECT TO HANDLE.

IN THE SAME SPIRIT OF PRUDENCE WE FEEL THAT WE SHOULD NOT SEEK TO ACHIEVE TOO MUCH AT THE SAME TIME. RATHER WE SHOULD PROCEED IN A STEP BY STEP APPROACH WHICH WILL ALLOW FOR A GRADUAL BUILD-UP OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE. SUCH A PHASED APPROACH SEEMS THE MOST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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REALISTIC WAY IN WHICH TO TACKLE THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS.

IF OUR OUTCOME IS INDEED TO BE BALANCED AND OUR SECURITY IS TO REMAIN UNDIMINISHED, WE HAVE TO REALIZE THAT REDUCTION MEASURES WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSE CONJUNCTION WITH COLLATERAL MEASURES. MY GOVERNMENT REGARD MEASURES CONCERNING VERIFICATION, NON-CIRCUMVENTION AND STABILIZATION AS ESSENTIAL COMPLEMENTS TO REDUCTIONS THEMSELVES, WHICH ALL TAKEN TOGETHER WILL HAVE TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED RESULT OF GREATER STABILITY AND INCREASED CONFIDENCE. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THIS TO IMPLY THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THEIR OUTCOME NEED NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF EFFORTS TOWARDS FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF WESTERN EUROPE.

NOW I AM FULLY AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES AHEAD OF US. THE SUBJECT MATTER IS COMPLICATED AND WE HAVE HARDLY ANY PRECEDENTS TO DRAW ON. ON THE OTHER HAND, I AM CONVINCED THAT WE, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONS HERE ASSEMBLED, OWE IT TO OUR PEOPLES AND THE WORLD IN GENERAL TO GRASP THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKING POSITIVE AND CONCRETE CONTRIBUTION TO ESTABLISHING A NEW RELATION-

SHIP BETWEEN THE PARTICIPATING STATES. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE
WILL BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE RESULTS IF THE SPIRIT WHICH BROUGHT
US TOGETHER WILL BE MAINTAINED IN THE COURSE OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS.

THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT ONCE MORE EXPRESSES ITS WARM THANKS
TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE HIGHLY VALUED ASSISTANCE AND
FACILITIES THEY HAVE PROVIDED IN THE COURSE OF THE PREPARATORY
NEGOTIATIONS AND FOR THE HOSPITALITY THEY CONTINUE TO PROVIDE
FOR THE ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS. END TEXT.MOWINCKEL

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